

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A movable wall module for installation into an opening formed in a building wall, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame having a first side and a second side;

first component means supported on said first side of said frame;

second component means supported on said second side of said frame; and

means for movably supporting said frame within the building wall opening for selectively and reversibly presenting said first and second component means respectively within rooms or spaces each including a floor and disposed at opposite sides of the building wall;

said means for movably supporting said frame comprising a bearing assembly for supporting said frame on a generally vertical axis for rotation relative to the floor of said rooms or spaces disposed at opposite sides of the building wall;

said bearing assembly supporting said frame for rotation on an axis disposed off-center relative to the opening formed in the building wall.

2. The movable wall module of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second component means comprises a component module mounted on said frame.

3. The movable wall module of claim 1 wherein said bearing assembly has a diametric size greater than the thickness of said frame.

4. The movable wall module of claim 3 wherein said bearing assembly has a diametric size of about 2 feet.

5. The movable wall module of claim 1 wherein said bearing assembly supports said frame for rotation on an axis disposed generally within a plane of the building wall.

6. The movable wall module of claim 1 wherein said bearing assembly supports said frame for rotation on an axis positioned in off-set spaced relation relative to a plane of the building wall.

7. A movable wall module for installation into an opening formed in a building wall, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame having a first side and a second side;
first component means supported on said first side of said frame;
second component means supported on said second side of said frame; and

means for rotatably supporting said frame on a vertical axis within the building wall opening for selectively and reversibly presenting said first and second component means respectively within rooms or spaces disposed at opposite sides of the building wall;

said means for movably supporting said frame comprising a bearing assembly having a size and shape for transmitting the module load to a relatively broad floor area having a width or diametric size greater than the thickness of said frame;

said bearing assembly further defining at least one access port, and further including at least one utility service component coupled through said at least one access port to at least one of said first and second component means.

8. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said at least one utility service component comprises a cable.

9. The movable wall module of claim 7 further including means for limiting maximum rotational displacement of said frame.

10. The movable wall assembly of claim 7 wherein said means for movably supporting said frame comprises castor means for rolling support of said frame.

11. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said frame is movably supported between a reversible normal position substantially aligned with the building wall and substantially closing the building wall opening, and an open position substantially misaligned with the building wall to define at least one transit passage through said building wall opening.

12. The movable wall module of claim 11 further including acoustic seal means carried at opposite side edges of said frame for reducing acoustic transmission through the building wall opening when said frame is in said substantially closed position.

13. The movable wall module of claim 12 wherein said acoustic seal means comprises an expandable seal member for engaging the building wall when said frame is in said substantially closed position, said expandable seal member being retractable to accommodate movement of said frame to said open position.

14. The movable wall module of claim 12 wherein said acoustic seal means comprises acoustic material lining nonlinear edges formed on the opposite side edges of said frame and cooperating with generally matingly shaped nonlinear edge surfaces on the building wall when said frame is in said substantially closed position to reduce acoustic transmission through the building wall opening.

15. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said frame has a depth at the opposite side edges thereof which is significantly greater than the spacing between said frame side edges and the building wall edge surfaces when said frame is in the substantially closed position.

16. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said frame has a thickness of from about 1 foot to about 1 ½ feet.

17. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said frame thickness is substantially greater than the clearance between an upper edge of said frame and an upper edge of said building wall opening.

18. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said first component means comprises a home entertainment unit.

19. The movable wall module of claim 18 wherein said home entertainment unit comprises a video display mounted on a subpanel, and further including means for rotatably supporting said subpanel on said frame for reversibly presenting said display panel respectively within rooms or spaces at opposite sides of the building wall, independently of movement of said frame.

20. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said second component means defines a work surface.

21. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said frame is manually movable.

22. The movable wall module of claim 7 further including power means for moving said frame.

23. The movable wall module of claim 7 wherein said frame further includes a third side, said means for movably supporting said frame within the building wall opening being for selectively and changeably presenting said first and second component means respectively within rooms or spaces disposed at three sides of the building wall.

24. A movable wall module for installation into an opening formed in a building wall, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame having a first side and a second side;
first component means supported on said first side of said frame;
second component means supported on said second side of said frame; and

means for movably supporting said frame within the building wall opening for selectively and reversibly presenting said first and second component means respectively within rooms or spaces disposed at opposite sides of the building wall;

said second component means comprising a work surface unit, and further including castor means for supplemental rolling support of said work surface unit upon movement of said frame.

25. The movable wall module of claim 24 wherein said work surface unit comprises a desk.

26. A movable wall module, said movable wall module comprising:
a module frame having a first side and a second side;
first component means supported on said first side of said frame;
second component means supported on said second side of said frame; and

means for movably supporting said frame within a building opening for selectively and reversibly presenting said first and second component

means respectively within rooms or spaces disposed at opposite sides of the wall module;

said first component means being mounted on a subpanel, and further including means for rotatably supporting said subpanel on said frame for reversibly presenting said first component means respectively within rooms or spaces at opposite sides of the building wall, independently of movement of said frame.

27. A movable wall module for installation into an opening formed in a building wall, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame having a first side and a second side;
first component means supported on said first side of said frame;
second component means supported on said second side of said frame; and

means for movably supporting said frame within the building wall opening for selectively and reversibly presenting said first and second component means respectively within rooms or spaces disposed at opposite sides of the building wall;

said frame having a generally truncated conical cross sectional shape defining a relatively large thickness at a lower end thereof and tapering upwardly to a narrower thickness.

28. A movable wall module for installation into an opening formed in a building wall, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame having a first side and a second side;
first component means supported on said first side of said frame;
second component means supported on said second side of said frame; and

means for movably supporting said frame within the building wall opening for selectively and reversibly presenting said first and second

component means respectively within rooms or spaces disposed at opposite sides of the building wall;

said first side of said frame defining a generally vertical surface, and wherein said second side of said frame defines a tapered surface extending upwardly and angularly inwardly toward said first surface.

29. A movable wall module for installation into a building, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame;

means for movably supporting said frame within the building for rotatable movement about an axis located off-center relative to the overall fore-aft depth of the wall module.

30. The movable wall module of claim 29 wherein said wall module is adapted to fit generally within an opening formed in a building wall, and further wherein said axis is located in laterally spaced relation to a plane of the building wall.

31. The movable wall module of claim 30 further including a first component mounted on one side of said module frame and having a first depth, and a second component mounted on an opposite side of said module frame and having a second depth, said first and second depths being unequal.

32. The movable wall module of claim 29 wherein said wall module comprises a partial-height module structure.

33. A movable wall module for installation into a building, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame; and

mounting means for movably supporting said frame within the building for rotatable movement about an axis located off-center relative to a transverse width of said wall module;

said mounting means movably supporting said frame for movement to at least one position with one end of said wall module in substantially abutting relation with a building wall.

34. A movable wall module for installation into a building, said movable wall module comprising:

a module frame adapted to fit generally within an opening formed in a building wall; and

means for movably supporting said frame within the building for rotatable movement about an axis located in laterally spaced relation to a plane of the building wall.

35. A movable wall module for installation into an opening formed in a wall of a building wherein the building wall separates first and second spaces each including a stationary floor disposed respectively at opposite sides of the building wall, said movable wall module comprising:

a generally upright module frame having generally vertically extending first and second sides;

first component means supported on said first side of said frame;

second component means supported on said second side of said frame; and

means for movably supporting said frame within the building wall opening for movement between a first position with said first and second component means presented respectively to said first and second spaces, and a second position with said first and second component means presented respectively to said second and first spaces; and

further wherein the stationary floor area within said first and second spaces is substantially exposed and unobstructed by said frame, when said frame is in either one of said first and second positions.

36. The movable wall module of claim 35 wherein said means for movably supporting said frame supports said frame for rotation on a generally vertical axis positioned in off-set spaced relation relative to a plane of the building wall.

37. The movable wall module of claim 35 wherein said means for movably supporting said frame comprises a bearing assembly having a size and shape for transmitting the module load to a relatively broad floor area having a width or diametric size greater than the thickness of said frame.

38. The movable wall module of claim 35 wherein said means for movably supporting said frame comprises a bearing assembly having at least one utility service component coupled through said at least one access port formed therein to at least one of said first and second component means.

39. The movable wall module of claim 35 wherein said means for movably supporting said frame supports said frame for rotation on a generally vertical axis located off-center relative to the overall fore-aft depth of the wall module.

40. The movable wall module of claim 35 wherein said first component means has a first depth and a said second component means has a second depth, said first and second depths being unequal.